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### THE CLASSICAL ASSOCIATION OF PITTSBURGH AND VICINITY

The fifth year of The Classical Association of Pittsburgh and Vicinity was inaugurated, in the customary manner, by a luncheon, on November 11, 1911, at the Hotel Lincoln. The Association was extremely fortunate in having Professor Edward Capps, of Princeton, for its guest of honor and speaker. His address on Some Aspects of Greek Comedy gave an illuminating account of the development and significance of Greek Comedy. After showing that the New Comedy really was an advance over the Old, Professor Capps closed with an appreciation of Menander.

Latin songs were sung between the courses, under the direction of Professor J. B. Hench. Sixty-five persons were present.

The second meeting was held on December 9, at the University of Pittsburgh. Professor Scribner, of the University of Pittsburgh, in presenting Current Topics gave several interesting reviews of new books. Mr. Norman E. Henry of the Peabody High School, Pittsburgh, read a paper on Some Ways to Vitalize High School Latin, which created a strong impression. Mr. Henry's enthusiasm was infectious. The paper was ably and brilliantly discussed by Professor H. F. Allen, of Washington and Jefferson College, and Miss Dema Bard of the Pittsburgh High School. By a lucky chance, Professor Mitchell Carroll, Secretary of the Archaeological Institute, was in Pittsburgh and attended the meeting. He consented to give a short address and spoke very interestingly along lines suggested by Mr. Henry's paper. As an example of vitalizing the teaching of Latin, Mr. Henry then presented the stereopticon reading on Vergil which he gives to his students. This was greatly appreciated by all.

There was a large attendance—over 100. It was manifest that many of the teachers went away with renewed enthusiasm for their work.

UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH. B. L. ULLMAN, *President*.

In *The Globe* (New York), for October 28, 1911, under the flaring headline, Greek is Dying Out, there was what purported to be a brief summary of a report by Mr. Edward B. Stevens, the Associate Superintendent of New York City Schools who is in special charge of the High Schools. According to the alleged summary, only 294 of the 38,202 boys and girls enrolled in the High Schools of New York City were taking Greek. I quote from the newspaper account the following words, given in quotation marks as verbatim extracts from Mr. Stevens's report:

... this, of course, is the largest number of students studying Greek in any high school system in America. In face of this fact, why any college should still require Greek for its bachelor's degree is a question that is difficult to understand.

Latin, adds Superintendent Stevens, seems to be holding its own against its nearest competitor, German.

Assuming, what may be rather temerarious, that Superintendent Stevens has been correctly quoted, it is worth while to call attention to the curious argument about Greek and entrance requirements for admission to college; the argument deserves some consideration since, strange as it is, it is made in terms or by implication by many. But surely it is a most vicious example of reasoning in a circle. Every one knows that the present condition of Greek in the schools is the result of the removal by most colleges of Greek from the list of subjects prescribed for admission. Everyone knows equally well that the study of mathematics, supposedly practical as mathematics is, would disappear in large degree from the High Schools, were mathematics to lose its place among the subjects prescribed for admission to college. Seeing, then, that the retrogression in Greek study is due to the removal by most colleges of the prescription of Greek for admission, to argue that the small number of students taking Greek is a reason why the few colleges which still require it for admission should cease to do so is to desire for one's self the alpha and the omega and all that lies between those extremes of argument and concession both.

C. K.

Dr. Ernest Darwin Daniels, of the Boys' High School, Brooklyn, has just published, through Sanborn and Co., *A Sight Book in Latin: Parallel Passages for Sight Translation*. There is a brief Introduction (1-x) giving suggestions about sight reading. Pages xi-xiii, 111-118 present Groups of Related Words; for these and for the Table of Synonyms and Contrasted Words (99-109) the author acknowledges his indebtedness to Professor D'Ooge's edition of *Select Orations of Cicero*. On pages 1-17 there is a short Grammatical Review. Pages 18-30 give passages for sight reading correlated with the Gallic War; 31-33 supply other passages correlated with the *De Lege Manilia*. On pages 34-60 are passages correlated with the Orations against Catiline, the speech *Pro Archia*, and Books I-IV of the *Aeneid*. On 61-78 there are supplementary passages from the *Georgics*, the *Aeneid* (last six books), and the *Eclogues*. On pages 80-82 there is a collection of Latin Idioms. On 83-97, finally, are entrance examination papers in sight reading recently set by various colleges.

C. K.